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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1995

Letter dated 9 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to raise with you the question of whether it may be possible to reopen item 47 of the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995".

I am raising this question with you in my capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary and following consultations with members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and other Permanent Representatives to the United Nations.

There are two reasons for this request:

First, it has been brought to my attention that there is a need for the General Assembly to provide formal authorization for the arrangements made by the Secretary-General to provide Secretariat staff for the work of preparing the fiftieth anniversary.

For this purpose a draft resolution has been drawn up and will be circulated for consultation and then submitted to the General Assembly for decision. The draft resolution has the support of members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

Secondly, there is a proposal initiated by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan and currently under consultation with a wide range of Member States to the effect that the General Assembly should decide, at its present session, that there should be convened early in 1995 a short special session of the

General Assembly, within the ambit of the forty-ninth session. That session would take place as part of the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and it would consider ways and means of strengthening the work of the United Nations in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

The draft resolution enabling such a decision is under informal consideration amongst Permanent Representatives.

Accordingly, the purpose of the present note is to ask that arrangements be made for the General Assembly to consider reopening item 47 of its current agenda so that it may then consider the two matters referred to above.

In the event that such a decision is obtained, then I am certain that shortly thereafter the two matters would be placed before the Assembly under agenda item 47 and submitted for its substantive consideration and decision.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER, AM